



Icebreaker...

Have you ever been intimidated by someone else's "spirituality"? What about being jealous? What about being cynical or judgmental?

The one properly divisive difference (12:1-6).

Those who "curse" Jesus are any who deny some aspect of Jesus and his mission. Embracing Jesus as "Lord" means to recognize his identity as God in the flesh, his activity as the sacrifice for sin, and his present role as Supreme King. Everyone who embraces Jesus like that has the Spirit, and those who don't don't. What do you think of that?

What are the limits of Christian unity? What are some religious groups that fall outside the boundaries of unity according to this standard?

If that's the only difference that is really divisive, every other difference among Christians should be embraced as only a "difference!" Can you think of some differences that Christians have incorrectly allowed to be divisive?

The "Gift" Differences (12:7-11, 28-30)

What do you notice about these two lists of gifts?

Paul spends no time describing the different gifts or giving any instruction about them as individual gifts. Rather, he references them to make three points: (1) The gifts are given to individuals not for themselves but for the sake of the church. (2) The gifts are given only at the will of the Spirit. (3) Every person is different. What do you think of those lessons? Why doesn't Paul talk about the gifts themselves?

Differences Make the Body (12:12-27)

This is a very famous section of the Bible. What is it saying to you today?

Love is the Binding Agent (12:31-13:13)

Paul describes love as the greatest thing that a Christian can pursue. It's greater than knowledge, prophecy, and even miracles! What do you think of that?

Love isn't easy. What about Paul's definition of love is challenging you today? Is there someone God has put in your life to test your love muscles?

The Spirit makes Christians different. But if we all have the same "spirit" then we are only one body. That's why love is so necessary. What's your takeaway from this lesson?



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